

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Single lipid vesicle assay to measure hydrolysis of disease-associated phospholipids	An assay using single vesicles to measure phospholipid hydrolysis could be used to identify and quantify disease-associated biomarkers. In the assay, single vesicles containing fluorescently labeled phospholipids were incubated with phospholipase A ₂ (PLA ₂) and enzyme activity was quantified by fluorescence microscopy. In cerebrospinal fluid samples from two patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and two healthy controls, PLA ₂ concentrations varied by up to 56%, but PLA ₂ activity varied by only 7%, suggesting that although enzyme levels may be higher in patients with AD, enzyme activity is not. Next steps include developing an advanced data analysis strategy that will help guide biomarker discovery. SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1048 Published online Sept. 26, 2013	Patent application filed covering a device to perform this analytical method; not yet available for licensing; additional information available from GU Holding AB Contact: Svante Hojer, GU Holding AB, Gothenburg, Sweden e-mail: svante.hojer@holding.gu.se	Tabaei, S.R. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Aug. 19, 2013; doi:10.1021/ja4046313 Contact: Fredrik Höök, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden e-mail: fredrik.hook@chalmers.se